(*d*) and (*e*) There were men of longer service in the department, but the Excise Commissioner reports that all those who were fit to be appointed as Sub-Inspectors were so appointed by him and that those who were denied promotion were men who were either physically unfit, wanting in educational qualification or unwilling to go out as Sub-Inspectors. Government have examined the papers relating to these appointments and have found no reasons for interfering with the action taken by the Excise Commissioner.

Circuit work of certain Officers.

365. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of days the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Industries, the Darbar Physician, and the Revenue, Police and Excise Commissioners have been on circuit, during the six months ending Vrischikam, 1099;

(*b*) the number of days in which halts were made and the number of institutions inspected by each officer in each station; and

(*c*) the travelling allowance drawn by each officer during this period?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government do not propose to call for the information, as the time and labour involved in its collection are, in their opinion, out of proportion to its utility.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not possible to get the information from the diaries of the officers in the Huzur Cutcherry and the Account Office? Cannot this information be easily obtained by examining those diaries?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not easy.

Mr. W. J. Cleur, Customs House Inspector, Alleppey.

366. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the fact that First Grade Inspector Mr. W. J. Cleur is a native of Alleppey, that he is a cousin of the present Excise Commissioner, and that he was put in charge of the Alleppey Customs House, soon after Mr. Van Ross was appointed Excise Commissioner, and that he continues there still?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the special reasons, if any, for retaining Mr. Cleur for such a long period in that institution?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the many complaints against Mr. Cleur from the merchants and others of Alleppey and other places? If they are not aware, will they be pleased to make enquiries?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that the late Excise Commissioner Mr. N. Raman Pillai, recorded his opinion and reported to the Government that Mr. Cleur was unfit to be in charge of a Customs House, and that he was reduced by one step for some official irregularities committed by him while he was in charge of the Quilon Port Salt Depot?

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[MR. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Mr. W. J. Cleur is not a native of Alleppey. He is reported to be a cousin of Mr. Van Ross. He was put in charge of the Alleppey Customs House after Mr. Van Ross was appointed Excise Commissioner. He continued there till Kumbham, 1099, when he went on leave.

(*b*) There were no special reasons.

(*c*) and (*d*) The answers are in the negative.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that Mr. Cleur's family house is at Alleppey ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long has he been there ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Cleur was posted to the Alleppey Customs House on the 15th Edavam, 1095, and till Kumbhom, 1099, he was there, when he went on leave.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has he been transferred since he went on leave ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He has not yet been transferred ; but the question of his transfer is under the consideration of Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that every Inspector in the Excise Department during the last four years, after the present Excise Commissioner took charge of the department, has been once and twice and several times transferred ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government know that a large number of Inspectors have been transferred ; but they do not know whether all of them except Mr. Cleur have been transferred.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry in the matter ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, if the member so desires.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that there have been complaints against Mr. Cleur's short levy of duty ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There has been correspondence in the matter.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What action is being taken in the matter ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter is being pursued.

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